Reviewer's report

Title: Training for Heath Services and Systems Research in Sub-Saharan Africa - A Case Study at Four East and Southern African Universities

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Reviewer: Emmanuel Mpinga Kabengele

Reviewer's report:

The authors of this study focuses on the development of health systems through training and health services and systems research. The study whose results are presented here to know in the field of the HSSR the numbers of trainees in African universities, the curricula and challenges.

If the goals and motivations of are valuable, this study raises several questions:

Major concern

On the epistemological level

The definition, content, limits and links of the HSSR field with other health and systems research are not clarified. (links between HSSR and Human Resources Development)

On methodological and operational levels.

This epistemological question leads to another fundamental question: Can we consider that students who spent two years studying health systems policies, Human Resources Planning, Health and Epidemiology economy as eligible for a graduation in HSSR? If so, there is a big methodological bias in this study calling for its full revision.

Minor Concerns

In the introduction of this study, the authors note: "Review of literature has reveals that little is known about the current level HSSR" Where is the reference of this review?

For the accuracy of their study, the authors may be more accuracy with international development agenda by making a discussion point-in MGD and Post 2015 agenda health research recognition.

No competing interest

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests